cpnstituted by far the largest individual Party. The leader of the Kuomintang Parliamentary groups was Sung Chiao-jen, whose name it was intended to put forward as Prime Minister, in order to undermine Yuan Shih-kai's authority. On March 21, just as he was about to board the train at Shanghai for the North, he was assassinated. His murderer was arrested, and from certain documents found in his possession, and that of Ying Kwei-shing, who was alleged to have instigated the crime, it was made to appear that Chao Ping-chun, then Premier and Minister of Interior, had commissioned Ying to remove Sung. The Premier strenuously denied this interpretation. The actual assassin died under mysterious circumstances, in his cell, while awaiting trial. Ying escaped during the fighting in Shanghai, later in the year.

Parliament assembled, on April 8, in a very hostile frame of mind. It would not even permit the reading of the President's inaugural message. It occupied the first three weeks of the session with quarrels over the election of the Speakers of the two Houses. The Kuomintang demanded a Party Cabinet, to which President Yuan would not agree.

On April 26 the Quintuple Loan Agreement, providing for a Reorganization Loan of £25,000,000

was signed by the Minister of Finance. This roused Parliament to fury. Dr. Sun wrote a lengthy letter to the British newspapers opposing the loan and predicting that it would lead to civil war.

In the course of interpolations the Government spokesmen claimed that the essential principles of the Loan Agreement had received the approval